JBC clothing

Dear Mr. Swanson, 1/12/78

Please excuse the delay in responding to your 1/3 and the probable brevity of this response. If we were not snow and iced in I'd be in federal distfict court in Washington on one FOIA case and with an affidavit for my lawyer in another. This would be the third affidavit in two days, which gives you an idea of why I've not been able to respond sooner.

As soon as I rest from shoveling my way to where a brand new and I'm afraid very stiff and recalcitrant snow blower is I must try to clear a lane as long as a football field before it can turn to slush, which the blower can't handle. Or I.

I'm particularly sorry about the delay because you have done what I'd have regarded as impossible, come up with some new missing evidence basic to the crime. I was aware of the continued holding of the hat and of the history of the rest of the clothing but I slipped up, along, I believe, with everyone else, on the hat. I am not aware of any testing of it of anything of its subsequent history.

Worse, I should have been because we are still in court on the grandaddy of all FOIA and JFK cases, for the scientific testing. Now this should be within that request. When he reads a carbon I'll get the opinion of my lawyer, Jim Lesar, in D.C. I'm certain the original request includes the testing of the clothing. I'm inclined to guess that the FBI will say that visual examination reflected no need to test it because there was no visual damage to it. Off the top of the head I suspect that blood testing (typing) was indicated but then I know the FBI was staying away from as much of the corpus delicti as it dared - more than I'd have dared were I Director.

It would be good to see the hat to be sure it had no holes of any size or kind.

I suggest that your formulation relating to a possible delayed Connally reaction should be in terms of greater delay rather than delay. The expert opinion was that delay could have been up to two seconds, with dispute about striking of bone shortening this.

While I've not had time to examine them yet I have about 25,000 pages of the Dallas "bulky" files, which should include all Lab work of any kind and compared by container size about 5/8 of that of FBIHQ bulky files. If there is anyone through whom you would like access, you are welcome to examine them. But I have not seen any reference to the JBC hat and thus am not optimistic about finding anything there.

If you get any constructive response from the committee it will surprise me. They also never investigated the crime and are not about to confess it. If you do hear, please surprise me.

Good luck and best wishes,

Harold Weisberg